

(a) the total area in hectares under poppy cultivation in the country;

(b) the percentage of poppy produced in Bareilly district of Uttar Pradesh out of the total poppy production in the country during the last two years;

(c) whether any proposal to revise the prices of opium is under consideration of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Total area licensed for poppy cultivation during crop year 1991-92 is approximately 14,211 hectares.

(b) opium produced in Bareilly District of Uttar Pradesh out of the total production in the country during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 was about 2.45 percent and 2.92 percent respectively.

(c) No, sir,

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Production of opium in India is mainly export oriented. The procurement price of opium is therefore directly related to its export price, which has not changed significantly during the last few years because of the stiff competition which Indian opium has been facing from an alternate source of raw material viz. cps (Concentrate of Poppy straw) in the international market.

EEC's Decision on one Trade-one Currency

4906 SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign trade of India is likely to be adversely affected due to European Economic Community's decision of one Trade and one Currency; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard the economical interests of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The emergence of the single European Market and its likely effects are constantly monitored. Some steps taken to improve the economic relationship include:-

(a) the decision to establish a technical working group for exploring possibilities of upgrading economic and technical cooperation;

(b) Signing of the India EEC International partners Scheme to provide for EC assistance to establishing Indo-EEC Joint Ventures in India;

(c) providing for EC financial and technical assistance for trade promotion programmes in selected sectors, besides support in upgradation of standards, and

(d) establishment of the Indo-EEC Business Forum.

[English]

National Sericulture Project

4907. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of traditional and Pilot states selected under the National Sericulture Project launched with the financial assistance from world bank and Swiss development Corporation;

(b) the details of the financial assistance